

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OFA-01 L-03 OES-03 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 /112 W  
----- 017267

P R 211541Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WJUHDC PRIORITY 335

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7934

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS CO

SUBJ: LOS: POSSIBLE COLOMBIAN UNILATERAL ACTIONS

REF: STATE 196536 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR MADE ORAL DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO PER REFTTEL. MAKING POINTS INCLUDED THEREIN. LIEVANO, IN REPLY, STATED: A) HE HAD READ THE SECRETARY'S MONTREAL SPEECH CAREFULLY; B) COLOMBIA'S POSITION AS TO WHAT A LOS TREATY SHOULD CONTAIN RE MARITIME JURISDICTION PARALLELS OURS, IE, A 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, BUT WITH FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION THROUGH LATTER; C) THERE NEED BE NO FEAR THAT COLOMBIA WOULD DECLARE A 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA DURING LOPEZ' VISIT TO ECUADOR; IT DOES NOT AGREE WITH ECUADOR IN THIS REGARD; D) THE GOC'S PRIMARY INTEREST AND MAIN OBJECTIVE AS REGARDS LOPEZ' VISIT TO QUITO IS TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT DELIMITING THE MARITIME BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; THERE HAVE BEEN DISPUTES IN THE PAST AS TO HOW THIS LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN, AND THE GOC IS  
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ANXIOUS TO SETTLE ALL SUCH DISPUTES WITH NEIGHBORS AND ABOVE ALL

AVOID PERPETUATING A PROBLEM SIMILAR TO THE ONE WITH VENEZUELA IN THE GULF OF MARACAIBO; E)WHAT THE JOINT AGREEMENT OR A DECLARATION WILL PROBABLY SAY IS THAT WHILE ECUADOR HAS ITS POSITION AS REGARDS MARITIME JURISDICTION, COLOMBIA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE ITS OWN POLICY AS TO JURISDICTION, AND THIS WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POSITIONS IT HAS TAKEN IN THE LOS CONFERENCE; VIZ., 12-MILE TERRITORIAL AND 200-MILE ECONOMIC SEAS.

2. ON THE LAST POINT, LIEVANO WAS EVASIVE AS TO PRECISELY WHAT FORM ANY SUCH DECLARATION MIGHT TAKE. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE DANGERS WE SAW IN UNILATERAL ACTIONS, AND THE MINISTER PROFESSED TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE POINT. HE IMPLIED THAT WHAT WOULD BE SAID IN ANY DECLARATION AT QUITO WOULD BE MORE AN ASSERTION BY THE GOC OF ITS POLICY AND POSITION RATHER THAN A FORMAL ASSERTION OF JURISDICTION. THIS IS LIKELY TO BE THE CASE IF THE GOC IS IN FACT CONTEMPLATING SOME LATER LEGISLATIVE ACTION AS WE HAD HEARD; IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, IN ANY CASE, HOW IT WILL COME OUT IN QUITO. IT DOES SEEM CLEAR THAT WHAT IS TO BE SIGNED AND SAID IN ECUADOR HAS ALREADY BEEN PRETTY WELL DECIDED UPON AND WORKED OUT.

3. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE WE APPRECIATED COLOMBIA'S SUBSTANTIVE POSITION AND UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS SIMILAR TO OURS, OUR CONCERN WAS THAT THESE POSITIONS NOT BE ASSERTED UNILATERALLY, PARTICULARLY BY LEGISLATION OR SIMILAR ACT, SO AS NOT TO UNDERMINE THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS OR UNLEASH CHAIN REACTIONS. POINT E REFTEL WAS UNDERScoreD. THE MINISTER DID NOT REACT TO THE REFERENCE ON LEGISLATION, AND DID NOT REFER TO ANY POSSIBLE BILL. (INFORMATION IN THIS REGARD WAS GIVEN US IN CONFIDENCE BY MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, AND WE SUSPECT HE MAY BE UNAWARE OF THAT. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE DRAFT OF A BILL IS BEING WORKED ON WITHIN THE MINISTRY BUT THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO TIMING. NOR ARE WE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT A DECISION HAS FIRMLY BEEN MADE TO GO FORWARD TO THE CONGRESS WITH IT). THE MINISTER WAS IN ANY CASE ABSORBED IN THE ECUADORAN VISIT AND THOSE ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION.

4. THE AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO PROVIDE LIEVANO WITH AN AIDE MEMOIRE OUTLINING THE POINTS HE HAD MADE ORALLY FOR THE MINISTER'S FURTHER CONSIDERATION; HE WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH LIEVANO  
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AGAIN UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN FROM QUITO -- AND IN THE LIGHT THEREOF -- WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE UNILATERAL LEGISLATION.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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